

Dear Jim,

8/19/84

I'm glad you sent the CIA amendment stuff and Angus Mackenzie's writing and brief, all of which I've read except the draft of the bill and the committee print. I regard both as irrelevant, as you'll have gathered from what I wrote Lynch after reading the Burnham Times piece.

While as usual both Strawderman and Briggs lied, as is less usual they have both said what proves the other cannot be truthful. So, I've written Strawderman again, and this time indicated a copy to Lynch on it. Maybe they'll speak to him, maybe they won't. (But what can they say if they've destroyed the files?)

If you want Alan F to have a copy of the letter to S, OK. But I do not want any distribution of this letter to Lynch. I am not campaigning against him, this is not in any sense personal, and I believe he is honest, sincere, and, unfortunately, trusting. The content to Stan is OK, but not that I addressed it to Mark.

While I made no specific reference to the nature of my overseas mail, the church committee's testimony leaves it without question that my publishing correspondence was intercepted. If he ever discusses this with you, or if you think he would want to know, let me remind you of some of it.

What is less definitive but is reasonably attributable to the CIA is the first of several efforts a dear and influential friend, Sidney Kaufman, made abroad. He had the late Baroness Maura Budburg act as my agent, she had Collins, in England, interested, and their interest, he told me, was killed by John Sparrow. The late Steve Barber, a conservative British reporter, told me that Sparrow had long-time intelligence connections.

Sidney also introduced the book to a major German publisher, from whom I heard only a year later. They then informed me that they had gone for the book, written me, and gotten no response. I never got their letter(s). They also returned the ms, with or without a letter, and I never got it.

Then Sidney got me another agent in England, Gordon Harbord, probably dead now. Two things happened. Sir Leslie Frowin decided to publish Whitewash. And while he was drafting the contract he was fed bad, wrong information that led him to believe two books would compete for the same market and neither would sell. At the same time, for a period of about two months, everything I sent Gordon was intercepted and held. Then all of it reached him at one time, as he wrote or cabled me. When it was too late.

I had correspondence with eastern-Europeans about publishing Whitewash when it became apparent that no US publisher was going to go for a book so openly critical of the official explanation and not praising the FBI, as Epstein's did. I am sure the USSR, East Germany and Hungary. Or maybe instead of Hungary, the Czechs. I have copies in dead files. These are clearly within the CIA intercept program testified to. And I've not received any indication of the existence of any such records from either the FBI or CIA. (The FBI was in on it but the program was for the CIA.) Japan also, but I'm not sure mail to Japan was intercepted. Something strange happened with Gallinard in France, but I don't recall if mail to France was intercepted or if it could account for that business.

Aside from this there is the Hunt/Idttauer-Wilkinson business of which you know. You may not have known of Praeger, not then known to me as a CIA publisher. If nothing else, it is a reasonable assumption that Praeger personally informed the CIA of the book. His man who read and was excited by Whitewash told me it would require Praeger's personal OK. He is Mort Puner, friend of a friend, and he anticipated a 50,000 first print, which for 1965 was quite good.

Best,